

OPINION 1646

Coccobius Ratzeburg, 1852 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): not suppressed

Ruling

(1) The name *Coccobius* Ratzeburg, 1852 (gender: masculine), type species by designation by Gahan & Fagan (1923) *Coccobius annulicornis* Ratzeburg, 1852, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(2) The name *annulicornis* Ratzeburg, 1852, as published in the binomen *Coccobius annulicornis* and as defined by the neotype designated by LaSalle & Bouček (1989) (specific name of the type species of *Coccobius* Ratzeburg, 1852), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2629

An application for the conservation of *Physcus* Howard, 1895 was received from Prof D. Rosen & Dr T. Rivnay (*The Hebrew University, Rehovot, Israel*) and Dr G. Viggiani (*Istituto di Entomologia Agraria 'Filippo Silvestri', Portici, Italy*) on 2 November 1987. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 45: 288–291 (December 1988). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Drs John LaSalle & Zdenek Bouček (*CAB Institute of Entomology, London, U.K.*) was published in BZN 46: 132–134 (June 1989). This comment included alternative proposals (BZN 46: 133).

An opposing comment from Drs Gary Gibson & John Huber (*Biosystematics Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada*), replies by two of the authors of the application (Gennaro Viggiani and David Rosen) to the comment by LaSalle & Bouček, and a further comment by Dr LaSalle, were published in BZN 47: 134–138 (June 1990).

It was noted on the voting paper that Drs LaSalle & Bouček (BZN 46: 132–134) were against the proposed (BZN 45: 290, para. 13) suppression of the name of *Coccobius annulicornis* Ratzeburg, 1852 (the type species of *Coccobius*) and contended that this was a synonym of *Physcus testaceus* Masi, 1910. They (para. 6) designated a specimen in the Natural History Museum, London, as the neotype of *C. annulicornis* and, in place of the original proposals in BZN 45: 290, requested (para. 10) that the names having priority should be placed on appropriate Official Lists.

This was entirely a case of priority (of *Coccobius*) versus usage (of *Physcus*). Both alternatives, the conservation of *Physcus* Howard, 1895 (and *testaceus* Masi, 1910) by the suppression of *Coccobius annulicornis* Ratzeburg, 1852 (BZN 45: 290; Proposal A), and placement of the names *Coccobius* and *annulicornis*, both of Ratzeburg, 1852, on Official Lists (BZN 46: 133; Proposal B), were offered for voting. The first course involved the use of the plenary powers, but these were not required for the second course since it did not involve the suppression of names.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1990 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1991 the votes were as follows: Proposal A — 6: Bock, Corliss, Hahn, Mahnert, Ride, Savage.

Proposal B — 20: Bayer, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nye, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Uéno, and Willink.

No vote was received from Nielsen.

Trjapitzin abstained without comment.

Voting for proposal A, Hahn commented: 'In the long period before 1983, *Physcus* was apparently in use instead of *Coccobius* and introduced in the literature of biological practice. Therefore, the re-introduction of *Coccobius* may indeed disturb the 'common use' in this literature'. Also voting for proposal A, Ride commented that if it failed to meet the required majority a new application should be made to conserve the specific name of the 'well-known species *Physcus testaceus* Masi, 1910, treated in a great number of papers' [BZN 47: 135] by the suppression of the unused senior synonym *annulicornis* Ratzeburg, 1852.

Voting for proposal B, Martins de Souza commented that the designation of a neotype of the type species defines *Coccobius*, a name utilized by 30 authors and 24 references (BZN 47: 137), so the senior name has been used as a valid name.

Original references

The following is the original reference to the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

annulicornis, *Coccobius*, Ratzeburg, 1852, *Die Ichneumonen der Forstinsecten in forstlicher und entomologischer Beziehung*, vol. 3, p. 195.

Coccobius Ratzeburg, 1852, *Die Ichneumonen der Forstinsecten in forstlicher und entomologischer Beziehung*, vol. 3, p. 195.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Coccobius annulicornis* Ratzeburg, 1852 as the type species for the nominal genus *Coccobius* Ratzeburg, 1852:

Gahan, A.B. & Fagan, M.M., 1923. *Bulletin of the United States National Museum*, 124: 37.

The following is the reference for the designation of the neotype of *Coccobius annulicornis*:
LaSalle, J. & Bouček, Z., 1989. BZN 46: 133.